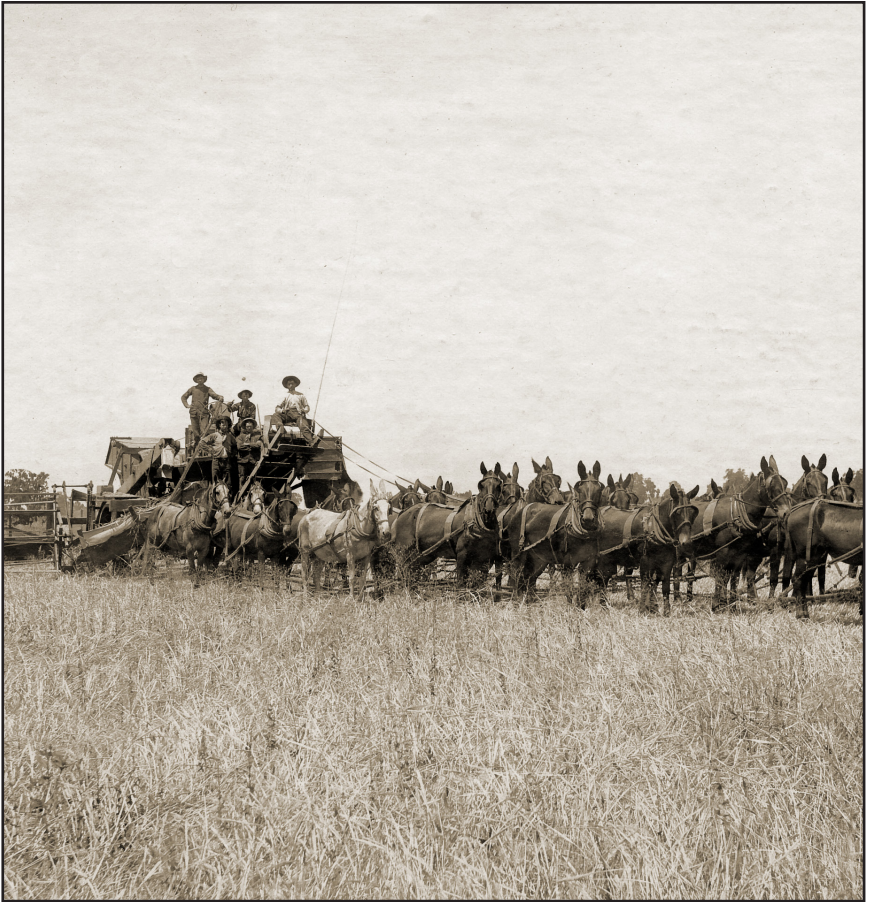




Wheat Farming: Then and Now

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Farming has changed in many ways. In 1900, farms needed many workers. Today, farmers use new machines. They have new kinds of plants. Fewer workers are needed. Let's look at how farmers worked then and how they work now.

Sunday, July 29, 1934

Last week has been a fine
week for grain a few sprinkles
in late part & and fine so of
weather all week.
Grain getting fine and
we have quite a bit of 8 bushel
wheat.

Ocean has had steady time
except about 2 days.

Last week, Dolpus was killed.

Last day on Stock market.

Strikes are active, and many
things happening. Local bank
having a hard time.

Mr. Chevy makes for lots
of comfort.

Monday, July 30, 1934

To relax. Oscar repairing engine
on combine.

Then day for fishing.

1900

Farmers wrote many things in their books. They wrote about when and how much it rained. They wrote about the hot and cold air. They listed the kinds of crops they planted and when they planted them. They also wrote about how the crops grew.





1900

They shared the books with their neighbors. The farmers learned from each other. The books helped them plan for the next year. The books showed the farmers what and when to plant.



2000

Today farmers use computers. They read about the weather and new ways to plant. Many farmers plant more than one kind of plant in a field. This helps keep the soil from washing away. Some farmers have computers in their tractors.



2000

They type in what crops are growing where. They keep track of the size of their crops. The farmers can e-mail other farmers all over the country. This helps them plan what to plant and when to plant it.



1900

One hundred years ago, farmers used strong horses or mules to pull the plows. The plows turned over the land. Plowing made the land ready for the seeds. Some farms used tractors in place of horses. The tractors ran on steam.



1900

The tractors were big and hard to steer. Then, there was another change in 1903. Some farmers started using tractors that ran on gas. Many farmers did not have the money to buy the new tractors. They still worked with horses.



2000

Now most farmers use tractors that run on gas. The tractors have many of the things we have in cars. The driver can listen to music. The tractor cab has air conditioning to keep the cool air inside and the dust outside.



2000

Many farmers carry cell phones. They talk to other people on the farm. They talk about crops, the harvest, and where to go with the tractors.



1900

In the early 1900s, farmers used big drills to plant seeds. Horses pulled the drills. The drill made it easy to plant in straight rows. It dug many rows at once. The seed drill dug the row, dropped in the seed, and covered the seed with soil.





1900

Some crops, like wheat, do not grow in rows. Farmers used a special kind of seeder, called a broadcast seeder, for those crops. It spread seeds all over the field.





2000

Farmers still use seeders today. A tractor pulls the seeder. The seeders are bigger now. They plant many seeds at one time.



2000

Modern seeders also do an extra job. They add fertilizer to the soil. Fertilizer feeds the plants so that they grow bigger and produce more wheat.



1900

Picking and cutting crops became much easier. Farmers no longer did the job by hand. Horses pulled machines that cut the wheat. A steam-run machine took the grains off the straw. It also filled the bags with grain. Many workers were needed.





2000

Farmers use a combine now. It has its own motor. It does two jobs. It cuts the wheat in the field. It also takes the grains off the straw. The grains fall into a box. Farmers wait until the box is full. Then they move the wheat into a truck. Fewer farmworkers are needed because of farm machines.





1900

Farmers filled a cart with bags of grain. They brought the grain to a miller. The miller turned the grain into flour. The miller sold most of the flour to bakers in the city.



2000

Now farmers fill their trucks with grain. The trucks bring the wheat to grain elevators. The wheat is stored in the grain elevators until it is sold. Trains and ships take the wheat to places around the world. Farmers in the United States help feed people in many places.





This is how wheat was moved from place to place in 1900.



This is how wheat is moved from place to place today.

Unit Title: **From Field to Table**

Grade: **2**

History–Social Science Standard 2.4.1.

Supports ELA Standard: Reading 2.2.5.

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